



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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ECONOMY

***Aggregate Implications of Changing Sectoral Trends.* By Andrew Foerster, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. May. 2019. 55 p.**

<https://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/files/wp2019-16.pdf>

“Changing sectoral trends in the last 6 decades, translated through the economy’s production network, have on net lowered trend GDP growth by around 2.3 percentage points. The Construction sector, more than any other sector, stands out for its contribution to the trend decline in GDP growth over the post-war period, accounting for 30% of this decline. Moreover, the process of capital accumulation means that these structural changes have endogenously persistent effects. Thus, absent the realization of predominantly positive and persistent disturbances to TFP [total factor productivity] and labor growth, we estimate that trend GDP growth will continue to fall over the next 10 years.”

EDUCATION

At What Cost? Student Loan Debt in the Bay Area. By Bina Shrimali, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Apr. 2019. 56 p.

<https://www.frbsf.org/community-development/files/student-loan-debt-in-the-bay-area.pdf>

"Between 2003 and 2018, the share of adults with student debt in the Bay Area has nearly doubled, jumping from 6.2% to 12.2% and collectively these 735,000 borrowers owe \$26.6 billion.... And coping with the city's average balance of \$36,243 can be especially challenging in one of, if not the, most expensive place to live in the country. For a single person starting out on their own in the San Francisco metro area it takes roughly \$69,000 to afford basic expenses, according to the Economic Policy Institute, a left-leaning think tank. 'Once you pay your mortgage and put food on the table and get to and from work you don't have a whole lot left over to pay your debt,' said Elise Gould, a senior economist at EPI." ([Marketwatch](#), Apr. 23, 2019).

Lost Days: Poverty, Isolation Drive Students Away from School in California's Rural Districts. By David Washburn. EdSource. May 30, 2019. 18 p.

<https://edsource.org/2019/lost-days-poverty-isolation-drive-students-away-from-school-in-californias-rural-districts/613048>

Interactive Map: California's Chronically Absent Students in 2017-2018. By Yuxuan Xie and Daniel J. Willis. EdSource, May 30, 2019.

<https://edsource.org/2019/interactive-map-californias-chronically-absent-students-in-2017-18/613074>

This investigative report on chronically absent students in California finds that the highest rates of chronic absenteeism are in rural areas: "Of the 98 districts with rates over 20%, which the state classifies as very high, 84 are in rural areas." This report describes how school districts within Butte County are moving away from a punitive approach in solving the problem, to a more trauma-based approach, based on the social and economic circumstances in the area.

EMPLOYMENT

Women in Cybersecurity: Young, Educated and Ready to Take Charge. (ISC)². May 2019. 14 p.

<https://www.isc2.org/-/media/ISC2/Research/ISC2-Women-in-Cybersecurity-Report.ashx>

"Cybersecurity is notorious for being a male-dominated field. But the U.S. government has an even smaller percentage of women working in cybersecurity jobs than the global average of women working in the field. About 11% of U.S. federal, state and local government cybersecurity pros are women.... But the report's findings actually reveal a bigger problem: It's incredibly difficult to answer the question of how many women work in cybersecurity. That's because the definition of what counts as a cybersecurity worker can vary greatly from one organization—and one study—to another.... 'By broadening the scope of our research to encompass the men and women doing the work in organizations of all sizes across public and private sectors, and around the globe, we found a significant increase in the number of women in the cybersecurity workforce.'" ([Washington Post](#), Apr. 10, 2019).

HEALTH

"Trends in Suicide Among Youth Aged 10 to 19 Years in the United States, 1975 to 2016."

By Donna Ruch, et al. *JAMA Network Open*, vol. 2 no. 5 (May 17, 2019) 9 p.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2733430>

"The number of people dying by suicide in the U.S. has been rising, and a new study shows that the suicide rate among young teenage girls has been increasing faster than it has for boys of the same age.

Boys are still more likely to take their own lives. But the study ... finds that girls are steadily narrowing that gap. Researchers examined more than 85,000 youth suicides that occurred between 1975 and 2016.... Researchers found the increase was highest for girls ages 10 to 14, rising by nearly 13% since 2007. While for boys of the same age, it rose by 7%.... There was also evidence of racial and ethnic disparities in the study. The differences in suicide rates between boys and girls were greatest among non-Hispanic black youth.... Christine Moutier, chief medical officer at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, tells NPR that while multiple factors are likely driving the increase, social media might be playing a major role.” ([NPR](#), May 17, 2019).

HUMAN SERVICES

Medicaid Expansion Fills Gaps in Maternal Health Coverage Leading to Healthier Mothers and Babies. By Adam Searing, et al. Georgetown University Health Policy Institute. May. 22, 2019. 12 p. <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2019/05/09/medicaid-expansion-fills-gaps-in-maternal-health-coverage-leading-to-healthier-mothers-and-babies/>

“[S]tates that expand Medicaid improve the health of women of childbearing age: increasing access to preventive care, reducing adverse health outcomes before, during and after pregnancies, and reducing maternal mortality rates.... States that have expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act saw a 50% greater reduction in infant mortality than non-expansion states.... [In contrast,] the uninsured rate for women of childbearing age is nearly twice as high in states that have not expanded Medicaid compared to those that have expanded Medicaid (16% v. 9%).... Ten of these twelve states have not expanded Medicaid.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The “Online Brain”: How the Internet May Be Changing Our Cognition. By Joseph Firth, et al. NICM Health Research Institute, Western Sydney University. June 5, 2019. 11 p. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/06/190605100345.htm>

“Experiments reviewed in the study showed that people who spent their time constantly flipping between short activities online ‘require greater cognitive effort to maintain concentration’. The endless stream of notifications and digital distractions were found to be physically influencing the brain, with those affected showing less grey matter in the cerebral areas associated with maintaining focus. Other studies showed the internet having an immediate impact on our ability to concentrate, with people displaying a reduced capacity to maintain attention after activities such as internet shopping. Whereas offline activities such as reading a magazine showed no such impact. Multitasking online was even found to make people less effective at multitasking offline.” ([Telegraph \(UK\)](#), June 6, 2019).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Municipal Broadband is Roadblocked or Outlawed in 26 States: A State-By-State Breakdown of Municipal Broadband Roadblocks in 2019. By Kendra Chamberlain. BroadbandNow. Apr. 2019. <https://broadbandnow.com/report/municipal-broadband-roadblocks/>

“State laws use a variety of mechanism and restrictions that make municipal broadband projects difficult to initiate, costly to build, and commercially unviable.... Common tactics include forcing phantom costs into municipal broadband service rates that make them less competitive; restricting the expansion of public broadband networks that make it virtually impossible to generate enough revenue to keep afloat; limiting public funds for broadband to public-private partnerships; or forcing municipalities to sell broadband under a wholesale-only model.”

About the California Research Bureau

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